

Message Text

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ACTION EA-14

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 NSAE-00 NSCE-00 SSO-00

USIE-00 INRE-00 PM-07 H-03 INR-11 L-03 NSC-07 PA-04

RSC-01 PRS-01 SP-03 SS-20 DRC-01 OMB-01 /077 W

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O R 010837Z AUG 74

FM AMEMBASSY TOKYO

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 3662

INFO CINCPAC HONOLULU HI

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CINCPAC FOR POLAD

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PINT, JA

SUBJ: 73RD EXTRADORDINARY DIET ADJOURNS JULY 31

REF: TOKYO 9865

1. EIGHT-DAY 73RD EXTRAORDINARY DIET ADJOURNED EVENING JULY 31, AFTER UNITED LDP VOTED DOWN NON-CONFIDENCE MOTION SUBMITTED JOINTLY IN LOWER HOUSE BY ALL OPPOSITION PARTIES (265-197), AND SIMILAR CENSURE MOTION SUBMITTED BY THEM IN UPPER HOUSE (128-121). ORGANIZATION OF NEWLY ELECTED UPPER HOUSE THUS WAS ONLY BUSINESS CONDUCTED IN BRIEF POST-ELECTION SESSION REQUIRED BY LAW FOR THAT PURPOSE.

2. OPPOSITION PARTIES INSISTED FROM OUTSET THAT LDP ELECTION LOSSES, REFLECTING UNFAVORABLE POPULAR JUDGMENT OF GOJ, REQUIRED AT MINIMUM THAT PRIMIN TANAKA EXPLAIN POLICIES IN DIET. FACED WITH ADAMANT REFUSAL BY PRIMIN TANAKA TO DO SO, ON GROUNDS THERE NO BILLS BEFORE DIET FOR DEBATE WHICH WOULD REQUIRE EXPLANATION, OPPOSITION PARTIES SUBMITTED NON-CONFIDENCE AND CENSURE MOTIONS TO VOTE ON LAST DAY OF SESSION.

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3. DESPITE INTERNAL BICKERING STEMMING FROM ELECTION LOSSES, RESIGNATIONS FROM CABINET BY MIKI, FUKUDA AND HORI, AND PRECEDENT OF ABSTENTION BY SOME LDP DISSIDENTS FROM VOTE FOR UPPER HOUSE OFFICERS (REFTEL) RULING PARTY MEMBERS UNITED TO DEFEAT ANTI-GOJ RESOLUTIONS IN BOTH HOUSES. OBSERVERS DISCOUNT SPRINKLING OF ABSTENTEEES FROM LOWER HOUSE VOTE AS POLITICALLY INSIGNIFICANT. EVEN SEIRANKAI SUPPORTED TANAKA GOVT, RATHER THAN JOIN OPPOSITION IN MOVE TO BRING IT DOWN. IN UPPER HOUSE, ONLY MEMBER WHO LEFT CHAMBER TO ABSTAIN FROM VOTE WAS CONSERVATIVE INDEPENDENT KENTARO KUJIME.

5. COMMENT: HAVING SUCCESSFULLY FENDED OFF OPPOSITION IN DIET FOR TIME BEING BY AVOIDING SUBSTANTIVE DEBATE DURING BRIEF EXTRAORDINARY DIET SESSION, PRIMIN TANAKA CAN NOW DEVOTE MORE ATTENTION TO STRUGGLE WITH LDP RIVALS CALLING FOR PARTY REFORM. END COMMENT.
HODGSON

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: ELECTION RESULTS, UPPER HOUSE, POLITICAL LEADERS, CENTRAL LEGISLATURE, MEETINGS, OPPOSITION PARTIES
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 01 AUG 1974
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: boyleja
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1974TOKYO10020
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D740209-0581
From: TOKYO
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1974/newtext/t19740881/aaaacrkn.tel
Line Count: 79
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION EA
Original Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators:
Previous Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: TOKYO 9865
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: boyleja
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 30 JUL 2002
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <30 JUL 2002 by kelleyw0>; APPROVED <25 FEB 2003 by boyleja>
Review Markings:

Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
30 JUN 2005

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: 73RD EXTRADORDINARY DIET ADJOURNS JULY 31
TAGS: PINT, JA
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005